

Minutes of the Amherst Recycling and Refuse Management Committee

June 14, 2007

Present: Guilford Mooring, Superintendent of Public Works; Pat Church, Committee Chair; Meg Vickery; Marianne Lorenzelli; and Lucy McMurrer.

Updates:

The Minutes of the May 10 meeting were reviewed and accepted with no changes.

Committee member recruitment and name change:

Pat mentioned that both Harvey and Marianne need to be reappointed to the committee because their three year appointments are up. Janet Brown's resignation is now official, so there is still a vacancy on the Committee. Marianne said Judith Todd would be interested but she summers elsewhere and that could be a potential conflict. Pat also stated that five days after the end of Town Meeting the committee's name change will be complete. The webpage should also be adjusted accordingly.

Bottle Battle:

The Goldstein-Rose family is very interested in the Bottle Battle. They are actively involved in community recycling. Perhaps Solomon Goldstein-Rose, who is currently at Amherst Regional Middle School, should be approached about being a committee member? The family is getting together a float for the July 4 parade about the Bottle Battle. For further information, please contact Andra Rose at ar@andrarose.com

Guilford explained about how emptying the recycling bins in town is tricky. The crew would need to run through two times (once for trash, once for recyclables) or they'd need to have a different truck body. Figuring out the logistics of this is difficult, as Susan now knows first hand from having been on a town run.

Guilford also told us that some people believe the more bottles and cans that are recycled, the more money is gained from the venture. This is actually not the case because of gas costs. It costs more to take loose boxes of paper or bottles and cans than is earned from them. This is a problem.

Trash hauler discussion:

The application from the town for trash haulers and recyclers does not specifically say "recycling" on it. We could be stuck trying to enforce recycling if we don't have anything in writing indicating haulers *had* to recycle. Pat proposed we go to the Board of Health with potential solutions to this problem, rather than simply alerting them to the problem. The haulers have to sign the licensing agreement in January. Perhaps if we got a list of the haulers (there are approximately seven) with a contact person and phone number from Guilford, we could go in pairs to visit them? As committee members we could find out just how the whole thing works and who is in compliance with town regulations. Should Susan get this stuff to us and should we set up visits this summer?

Other Business Recycling notes:

Pat suggested we ask new businesses how they recycle. Meg may be able to visit some North Amherst area businesses (across from Potters in the small shopping center). Pat says we haven't contacted restaurants yet. Do we want to do that? Lucy will contact Sibies. Pat will contact Atkins. All new businesses must include recycling and waste plans before they're up and running, so relatively new businesses ought to be in compliance.

The meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m. The next meeting will be Thursday August 9, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucy McMurrer
Solid Waste Committee member